

# GS It's Time to Read

N°4

## France Is Heading to Brazil and Can Make Amends

*PARIS — Defying the bitterly low expectations of a populace that had largely written them off as prima donnas, the French national soccer team defeated Ukraine, 3-0, on Tuesday night and secured a place at the 2014 World Cup in Brazil.*

First-half goals by Mamadou Sakho and Karim Benzema and a fortunate bounce off a Ukraine defender for an own goal in the second half completed a comeback that had seemed impossible to many.

Ukraine had upset France, 2-0, in the first leg of their home-and-home playoff, a defeat that seemed to augur France's elimination and a potential new low for a team that has inspired more resentment than love in recent years. France's team has not yet shaken off the ignominy of its early exit from the 2010 World Cup in South Africa, where it failed to win a game and endured a player revolt that, at one point, led the team to refuse to practice.

The debacle led to the resignation of the coach and the reorganization of the federation under a new president. Still, commentators across the country had projected the worst for Les Bleus on Tuesday, noting that the team, whose roster features European stars like Real Madrid's Benzema and Bayern Munich's Franck Ribéry, had consistently underperformed. Comparisons were drawn between the seemingly doomed state of the team and the depressive state of the French economy.

"It's true that watching Les Bleus Friday at Kiev, one said to oneself that this French team was a bit in the image of our country: sick," wrote Yves Thréard, a top editor at the national daily Le Figaro, in a front-page editorial.

Instead, the team and the nation breathed sighs of relief at the final whistle inside Stade de France.

"It's the magic of football," Coach Didier Deschamps told The Associated Press. "Four days ago, we were bad, very bad. I've experienced some great moments, but this one is special."

But claiming a berth in the World Cup, the players and their fans know, is just the first step.

Since the embarrassment in South Africa, French players have been criticized as egotists unwilling to play as a team.

"The French are better players, but Ukraine is a better team," said Vincent Duluc, a senior soccer reporter at L'Équipe, France's leading sporting newspaper. The French do not have "a collective spirit" and are widely viewed as "reflecting the individualism of modern times," he said.

To qualify, Duluc said before the match, would require some chance element of the "irrational."

That surprise element may have come with an own goal by Ukraine's Oleg Gusev in the 72nd minute, off a cross intended for Sakho in a crowded penalty area. (Sakho celebrated the goal as his own.) Or it may have come in the 47th minute, with the red card given to Ukraine's Yevhen Khacheridi, which meant the visitors had to play with a man down for nearly the entire second half.

By that time, the French had tied the playoff on aggregate — on Sakho's goal on a rebound in the 22nd minute and Benzema's similar goal in the 33rd, though replays showed he was offside — and maintained a punishingly aggressive pace.

"From the starting whistle, we'll have to show what we're capable of, play at our best level," the French captain Hugo Lloris had told reporters Monday.

A loss might have meant the firing of Deschamps, the popular captain of France's 1998 World Cup champions. He was brought in a year ago to reform Les Bleus and promote team play; until Tuesday, the results had been viewed as mixed, at best.

Had the French failed to qualify, Brazil would have been the first World Cup they missed since the 1994 edition, held in the United States.

Their qualification meant, in the words of one French editorialist, that the spurned national team had "avoided the worst."

But Duluc, the reporter at L'Équipe, warned that the team's reputation had hardly been righted.

"We'll have to wait for the results of the World Cup for a reconciliation," he said.

### ~ Fuck My Life ~

FML#1: Today, I let my sister hold my newborn daughter for the first time. I heard her mutter under her breath, "I could kill you so easily..."

FML#2: Today, I watched my mother tell a man that the holocaust was "a good thing" and "necessary for population control". That man was my girlfriend's father. Who is Jewish.

### ~ Quote of the day ~

*I believe in God, only I spell it Nature.*

Frank Lloyd Wright

*The better I get to know men, the more I find myself loving dogs.*

Charles De Gaulle

### ~ Auto correct fails~



## HAPPY MOVEMBER!



All around the world this month, men are cultivating face fuzz for Movember - an annual moustache growing charity event that raises funds and awareness for male cancers. As an inspiration to everyone taking part in Movember, today we're placing the spotlight on Karl-Heinz Hille and his extraordinary record-breaking moustache, which features in the new Guinness World Records 2014 book.

## Makerbot Wants To Put A 3D Printer In Every School

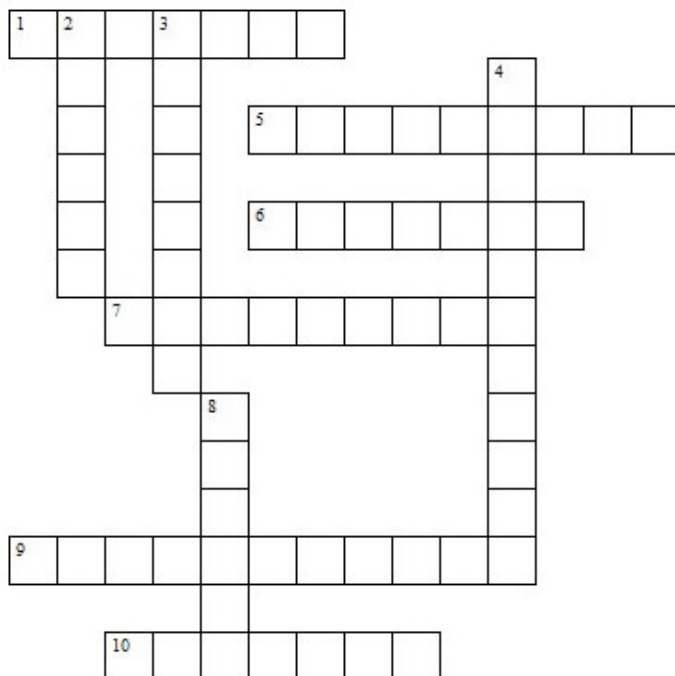
3D-printer company Makerbot is leading a crowdfunding drive to buy 3D printers for every school in America. The push, called Makerbot Academy, will begin with CEO Bre Pettis personally pledging a Makerbot to every public high school in the company's home town of Brooklyn.

"MakerBot Academy is a big thing. It is epic. There are around 100,000 schools in the USA and we want those students to be ready for the future," Pettis wrote.

You can donate at the [DonorsChoose.org](http://DonorsChoose.org) page. "As a former teacher, I believe strongly in creating a new model for innovation. A MakerBot is a manufacturing education in a box," wrote Pettis in a blog post. "We need to encourage our teachers and our youth to think differently about manufacturing and innovation."

Makerbot is working with America Makes, part of the The National Additive Manufacturing Innovation Institute that is "kickstarting" the 3D printing industry in the U.S.

Teachers can request printers here and designers interested in building educational models can register their designs on Thingiverse.



### ACROSS

- 1 Can help you with your pipes
- 5 Catches the bad guys
- 6 Helps people learn new things
- 7 Helps people find the books they are looking for
- 9 Can fix the lights if they go out
- 10 Puts out fires

### DOWN

- 2 Spends a lot of time in a court room
- 3 Can help fix your car if it isn't working
- 4 Helps animals when they are sick
- 8 Helps people when they are sick

